



House News

Georgia House of Representatives - April/May 2006

Looking Back on the 148th General Assembly

Looking back on this session, there are many things that made us proud to be a part of the Georgia House of Representatives and the Legislative Process. We saw tax cuts that saved Georgians millions of dollars in a time of economic crisis. We saw legislators reach out beyond political party lines to make Georgia a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Instead of waiting, reacting or hoping that others would make the tough decisions, House Members took great strides and efforts to protect Georgia's children, senior citizens, and private property owners.

The House, along with the Governor and the Senate decided early on that this would be the year of education in the General Assembly. For the first time in over a decade, lawmakers have mandated smaller class sizes, in order to focus more individual attention on students. In addition to increasing student-teacher interaction, Georgia will provide more resources to make classroom time even more beneficial by mandating that 65 cents of every education dollar be spent inside classrooms.

Not taking a back seat to any other issue, legislation concerning the protection of Georgia's citizens

became some of the most highly debated bills presented on the House Floor.

This year the state has reaped the benefits of economic growth, job creation and tax relief. This session was about returning those same benefits back to the citizens of Georgia.

Both majority and minority leaderships came to the State Capitol with one thing in mind: What is best for the State of Georgia, its citizens and future generations? The answers were revealed in the 2006 Regular Session of the Georgia General Assembly.



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

April

Craig Foster	April 3rd
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Gardner Sapp	April 19th
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Brent Cranfield	April 20th
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Gina McKinney	April 22nd
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Bill Bahr	April 27th
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May

Linda Brooks-Cooper	May 6th
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Malcolm Smith	May 10th
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Tammy Liner	May 14th
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Pat Jackson	May 16th
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Mary Anna Meeks	May 17th
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Doris Littlejohn	May 18th
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Michelle McKelly	May 19th
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Ann Clark	May 21st
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Judy Kind	May 24th
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Charlie Walker	May 25th
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Robbie Rivers	May 28th
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APRIL & MAY

Greetings from Human Resources

Greetings from Human Resources, the Legislative session has completed and we're here to tell the story. Congratulations to our Representatives who served their constituents with excellence and to all of you, who are the lifeblood of this process. We are anticipating a fun-filled and interesting off-peak season.

Here are some noteworthy items:

- Qualifying Day was Monday, April 24th.
- Congratulations to Diana Lynn who is the proud grandmother of new grandson, Justin Tyler Lynn, born Monday, April 24, 2006 at

6:28am. Justin weighed 5lbs 11oz and was 17 1/4 inches long.

- Congratulations to Lynn Thurman who has accepted a new position and will be leaving the General Assembly at the end of the month. Thanks for years of service Lynn.
- Plans are in the making for a Family/Company day. Sign up to be part of the planning committee.
- Anyone who was not at last week's staff meeting for administrative assistants, please

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Congratulations!



To Michelle Hitt on her upcoming marriage to Mark Grasso! The wedding will be June 10, 2006 in Savannah, Georgia.

read the meeting minutes and contact me with questions. A copy of the minutes will be distributed via e-mail.

“Let’s Talk”, a quarterly publication produced by the Department of Health and Human Services, for Federal Occupational Health states: Experts agree a positive attitude, faith and good relationships with others can make you healthier. No one’s sure exactly how some of these factors contribute to good health, but study after study show they do. People who are basically optimistic feel better and live longer than those who aren’t. According to James S. Gordon M.D. and founder of the Center for Mind-Body Medicine in Washington D.C, A positive attitude depends on genetic influence, upbringing, health habits, social connections, emotional support and spiritual involvement. You can’t change some of these factors, but you can learn new ways of thinking and behavior to help maintain a positive mind set.

What Doctor Gordon is saying is perhaps we can’t change our circumstance but we can choose to change our minds. It is after all, our prerogative. So



Justin Tyler Lynn - born April 24, 2006
(Grandson of Diana Lynn)

let us resolve to re-position our minds and attitudes. We’ll live longer.

Get outside, enjoy the great weather and be healthy and safe.

Passion and profession must be equally yoked, use your gift to create your destiny.

Arrie B. Porter

Employee Spotlight!

Charlie Walker

House Budget Office Director

Charlie was born in Atlanta and grew up in Decatur. His years growing up in Decatur, Georgia were about as Americana as you can get. "As a kid, I loved playing outdoors and playing

two grown children. Chad works for Microsoft in Seattle and Christie lives and works in Atlanta. Charlie stays busy serving on two non profit boards in Atlanta and he and Mary are active members of Epworth United Methodist Church at Candler Park.

in the private sector for four years. Now, after thirty two years with the General Assembly he is enjoying his work more than ever. "It is a pleasure to work for the House of Representatives. I feel that the Speaker, Speaker Pro Tem, Majority Leader, Chairman Ben Harbin and his Vice Chairs have utilized our staff in a way that has improved our performance

sports, especially baseball. I would always try to copy the style of Frank DiPrima, my favorite baseball player of all time. He played second base for the great Atlanta Crackers". High school and college years were spent enjoying sports, cars, guitars and drive-in theaters on Friday nights just like Wally Clever.

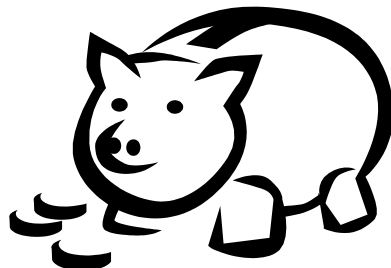
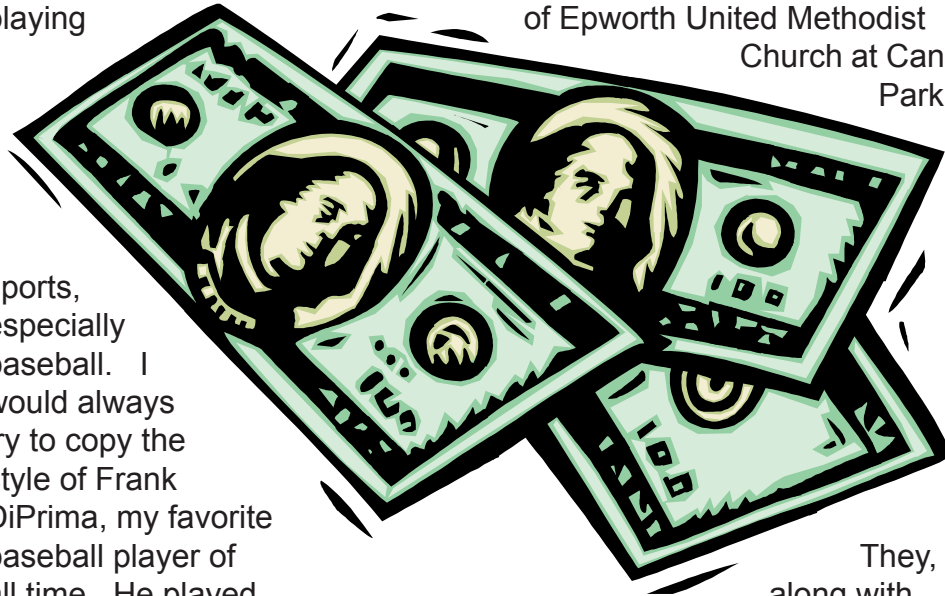
Charlie and his wife Mary have been married thirty six years.

They have

They, along with their pug dog Sammie, love spending as much time as possible at their mountain cabin in Rabun County where they enjoy music, hiking, relaxing, gardening and nature.

Charlie began working for the legislature as a Research Analyst in 1974 after working

over these past two years. We appreciate the opportunity to serve".



A Fresh Face

Ailie Olsen
Budget Analyst

Ailie has always wanted to work in State government, particularly for the legislature. When she was very new to Georgia and she needed a job. She randomly emailed Gordon Harrison, the previous director of House Research, to get advice on the best way to get her foot in the door and find a job with the General Assembly. He referred her to Robert Hobbs and Charlie Walker, as there was an analyst position open in what was then the Legislative Budget Office. She began her work in October of 2003, and has loved it since day one!

Born and raised in Olympia, Washington with my parents, Fred and Teresa, and my older sister, Kirsten. Ailie attended college at Washington State University in Pullman, Washington and received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science, with an emphasis in Public Administration. There's a good chance that she is the only WSU Cougar fan in Georgia!! She moved to Atlanta shortly after graduation because her boyfriend and luckily for him, now her fiancé', Bryan Glover,

In the next 5-10 years Ailie hopes to return to school to receive her masters degree in either public administration or social work. "I've always had an interest in working with the elderly and in welfare policy. If I don't make it back to graduate school, then I will without a doubt continue to work in some sort of public service field," said Ailie.

While working for the House Budget Office, "I've learned that, believe it or not, working a 36 hour day at the end of session can actually be a good time! This is entirely because the staff in our office is so much fun. I feel very fortunate to work for such knowledgeable Directors (Charlie, John and Martha). I learn something new from them every day!"

- Brent Cranfield

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Words of Wisdom

Robert E. Rivers
Clerk of the House

Since coming to work for the Georgia House, I have counted my blessings more times than I can remember because there was one person I could go to with just about any question.

Our Clerk of the House, Robert Rivers, has quickly become a major mentor for me in my learning of the functions and operations under the Gold Dome. It is rare to find someone that doesn't just answer a question you might have, but actually takes the time to help you come up with the answer yourself.

Whether it has been about parliamentary procedure, House rules, or even the State Constitution, "Mr. Rivers" has always been there to help. I can honestly say that I would not be able to my job "at all" if it wasn't for the advice and help of the Clerk and the Clerk's Office staff. So let me say, "Thank You." I know that this is the Words of Wisdom column, but I wanted to take this opportunity to say so.

I asked Robby what he would say to the House staff about what to do now that the session is over, with so many Members retiring or running for higher office, what his advice to the staff would be as we prepare over the coming for a transition of new Members to the House. "Keep doing your job the way you always have."

- Brent Cranfield

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We're on the Web!

www.legis.state.ga.us/legis/2005_06/house/index.htm

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